

CLAIMS

1. A method of making a decorative aluminum automotive vehicle body or decorative component parts for assembly into a said body, said method comprising:

making an automotive vehicle body structure or a set of component parts for a said body structure where visible surfaces of said body structure to be colored for consumer acceptance are formed of aluminum or aluminum alloys;

anodizing the surfaces of said body structure or set of component parts in an acid solution; and

coloring the anodized surfaces of said body structure or component parts in a process selected from the group of processes consisting of adsorptive coloring, electrolytic coloring, and interference coloring.

2. A method of making a decorative aluminum automotive vehicle body or decorative component parts as recited in claim 1, said method further comprising dipping the colored vehicle body or colored component parts in a solution of fluoride or silica compounds in the presence of nickel salts to cold seal the colored surfaces of said body or parts.

3. A method of making a decorative aluminum automotive vehicle body or decorative component parts as recited in claim 2, said method further comprising immersing said colored and cold sealed vehicle body or cold sealed and colored component parts in deionized water at a temperature of about 90°C to about 100°C to hot seal the surfaces of said body or parts.

4. A decorative aluminum automotive vehicle body or decorative component parts made by the method recited in claim 1.

5. A decorative aluminum automotive vehicle body or decorative component parts made by the method recited in claim 2.

6. A decorative aluminum automotive vehicle body or decorative component parts made by the method recited in claim 3.

7. A method of making a decorative aluminum automotive vehicle body or decorative component parts for assembly into a said body, said method comprising:

making an automotive vehicle body structure or a set of component parts for a said body structure where visible surfaces of said body structure to be colored for consumer acceptance are formed of aluminum or aluminum alloys;

cleaning, if necessary, said body structure or said parts for said body structure to remove natural oxide and other materials inhibitive of the following anodizing step; and

anodizing the surfaces of said body structure or set of component parts in an acid solution to form to form clear porous oxide surfaces about 10 to 25 μm in thickness on surfaces of said body structure or parts.

8. A method of making a decorative aluminum automotive vehicle body or decorative component parts for assembly into a said body as recited in claim 7 comprising coloring the anodized surfaces of said body structure or component parts by electrolytically depositing metal particles in the pores of said oxide surfaces.

9. A method as recited in claim 8 comprising coloring the anodized surfaces of said body structure or component parts by dipping said body or parts in an acidic aqueous bath of one or more inorganic salts of

metals and electrolytically depositing metal particles in the pores of said oxide surfaces from said bath.

10. A method as recited in claim 9 in which said inorganic salts are of one or more metals selected from the group consisting of cobalt, copper, nickel and tin.